

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/533,583
Amendment filed on July 30, 2009
Reply to OA dated March 31, 2009

AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A system for preventing unauthorized play of digital content, comprising:

a distributing recording medium on which a content file having header information and a data body is recorded and lacks a part of the header information ~~to prevent unauthorized play and unauthorized copy of the data body;~~

a management ~~means~~ unit for managing use of the content file on the distributing recording medium and capable of transferring the prepared part of the header information as a piece data via a communication line; and

a digital content playing device used for at least playing the content file on the distributing recording medium and having a function of communicating via the communication line with the management ~~means~~ unit, the piece data being necessary for the digital content playing device to play the data body, wherein

when a request to play the content file under authentication and charging conditions is inputted by a user to the digital content playing device, the digital content playing device transfers the request via the communication line to the management ~~means~~ unit, the management ~~means~~ unit checks authentication and charging of the user related to the request before transferring the piece data via the communication line to the digital content playing device, and

the digital content playing device uses the header information on the distributing recording medium and the piece data only in play operation to play the data body on the distributing recording medium.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A system for preventing unauthorized play of digital content, comprising:

a distributing recording medium on which a content file having header information and a data body is recorded in a state of lacking at least part of the header information;

a management ~~means~~ unit for managing use of the content file on the distributing recording medium and capable of transmitting the prepared part of the header information as a piece data via a communication line; and

a digital content playing device used for at least playing the content file on the distributing recording medium and having a function of communicating via the communication line with the management ~~means~~ unit, the piece data being necessary for the digital content playing device to play the data body, wherein

when a request to play the content file is inputted by a user to the digital content playing device, the digital content playing device transmits the request via the communication line to the management ~~means~~ unit, the management ~~means~~ unit checks authentication of the user related to the request before transmitting the piece data via the communication line to the digital content playing device, and the digital content playing device uses the header information on the

distributing recording medium and the piece data in play operation to play the data body on the distributing recording medium.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): A distributing recording medium fabrication device used for the system for preventing unauthorized play of digital content according to claim 1, which separates piece data from a content file having header information and a data body for recording and records the content file separated from the piece data on a recording medium received in the preparation device to create a distributing recording medium.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A digital content playing device used for the system for preventing unauthorized play of digital content according to claim 1, which has functions of :

when a request to play the content file is inputted by the user, transmitting the request via the communication line to the management ~~means~~ unit; and thereafter,

when the piece data is transmitted from the management ~~means~~ unit via the communication line, using the header information on the distributing recording medium and the piece data in play operation to play the data body on the distributing recording medium.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A recording medium storing playing software ~~Playing software~~ used for the system for preventing unauthorized play of digital content according to

claim 1, wherein the digital content playing device is a computer and the playing software is processed by the computer, and

wherein the system is made such that when a request to play the content file is inputted by the user, the request is transmitted via the communication line to the management ~~means~~ unit, and thereafter,

when the piece data is transmitted from the management ~~means~~ unit via the communication line, the header information on the distributing recording medium and the piece data are used in play operation to play the data body on the distributing recording medium.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A system for preventing unauthorized play of digital content, comprising:

a delivery management ~~means~~ unit delivering a content file having header information and a data body via a communication line and managing use of the data body; and

a digital content playing device capable of communicating via the communication line with the delivery management ~~means~~ unit and used for at least playing the content file delivered from the delivery management ~~means~~ unit, wherein

when a request to download the content file is inputted by a user to the digital content playing device, the digital content playing device transfers the request via the communication line to the delivery management ~~means~~ unit, the delivery management ~~means~~ unit transfers the content file related to the request via the communication line to the digital content playing device

[[by]] with the content file lacking a part of the header information to prevent unauthorized play and unauthorized copy thereof, thereafter,

when a request to play the content file under authentication and charging conditions is inputted by the user to the digital content playing device, the digital content playing device transfers the request via the communication line to the delivery management ~~means~~ unit, the delivery management ~~means~~ unit checks authentication and charging of the user related to the request to transfer the prepared part of the header information as piece data via the communication line to the digital content playing device, and

the digital content playing device uses the header information of the transferred content file and the piece data only in play operation to play the data body of the content file.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A system for preventing unauthorized play of digital content comprising:

a delivery management ~~means~~ unit which is a server in which a content file having header information and a data body is prepared in a state of lacking part of the header information and the part of the header information is prepared as a piece data, and which delivers the content file via a communication line and manages use of the data body; and

a digital content playing device capable of communicating via the communication line with the delivery management ~~means~~ unit and used for at least playing the content file delivered from the delivery management ~~means~~ unit, the piece data being necessary for the digital content

playing device to play the data body, wherein

when a request to download the content file is inputted by a user to the digital content playing device, the digital content playing device transmits the request via the communication line to the delivery management ~~means~~ unit, the delivery management ~~means~~ unit transmits the content file related to the request via the communication line to the digital content playing device, thereafter, when a request to play the content file is inputted by the user to the digital content playing device, the digital content playing device transmits the request via the communication line to the delivery management ~~means~~ unit, the delivery management ~~means~~ unit checks authentication of the user related to the request to transmit the piece data of the content file related to the request via the communication line to the digital content playing device, and the digital content playing device uses the header information of the transmitted content file and the piece data in play operation to play the data body of the content file.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A digital content playing device used for the system for preventing unauthorized play of digital content according to claim 6, which has functions of:

when a request to download the content file is inputted by a user, transmitting the request via the communication line to the delivery management ~~means~~ unit; after the content file is transmitted from the delivery management ~~means~~ unit, when a request to play the content file is inputted by the user, transmitting the request via the communication line to the delivery management ~~means~~ unit; and thereafter,

when the piece data is transmitted from the delivery management ~~means~~ unit via the communication line, using the header information of the transmitted content file and the piece data in play operation to play the data body of the content file.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A recording medium storing playing ~~Playing~~ software used for the system for preventing unauthorized play of digital content according to claim 6, wherein the digital content playing device is a computer and the playing software is processed by the computer, and in which the system is made such that when a request to download the content file is inputted by the user, the request is transmitted via the communication line to the delivery management ~~means~~ unit, after the content file is transmitted from the delivery management ~~means~~ unit, when a request to play the content file is inputted by the user, the request is transmitted via the communication line to the delivery management ~~means~~ unit, and thereafter, when the piece data is transmitted from the delivery management ~~means~~ unit via the communication line, the header information of the transmitted content file and the piece data are used in play operation to play the data body of the content file.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The system for preventing unauthorized play of digital content according to claim 1, wherein the digital content playing device has functions of:

determining an elapsed period from the point of time at which piece data is transmitted from the management ~~means~~ unit or the delivery management ~~means~~ unit; and

when the elapsed period reaches a predetermined period, deleting the transmitted piece data.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The digital content playing device used for the system for preventing unauthorized play of digital content according to claim 4, which has functions of:

determining an elapsed period from the point of time at which piece data is transmitted from the management ~~means~~ unit or the delivery management ~~means~~ unit; and when the elapsed period reaches a predetermined period, deleting the transmitted piece data.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The playing software used for the system for preventing unauthorized play of digital content according to claim 5, comprising additional descriptions of:

determining an elapsed period from the point of time at which piece data is transmitted from the management ~~means~~ unit or the delivery management ~~means~~ unit, and

when the elapsed period reaches a predetermined period, deleting the transmitted piece data.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The system for preventing unauthorized play of digital content according to claim 1, wherein the digital content playing device is a computer, provided

that playing software processed by the computer is prepared in the management means unit or the delivery management means unit, when a request to download the playing software is inputted by the user to the digital content playing device, the digital content playing device transmits the request via the communication line to the management means unit or the delivery management means unit, the management means unit or the delivery management means unit transmits the playing software related to the request via the communication line to the digital content playing device, and the digital content playing device downloads the playing software.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A digital content unauthorized play prevention method, wherein provided that a content file having header information and a data body in a digital content playing device previously lacks a part of the header information ~~in order to prevent unauthorized play and unauthorized copy of the data body~~, and that the part of the header information is prepared as piece data in management means unit for managing use of the content file in the device and capable of communicating via a communication line with the device, when a request to play the content file under authentication and charging conditions is inputted by a user to the device, the device transfers the request via the communication line to the management means unit, the management means unit checks authentication and charging of the user related to the request to transfer the piece data via the communication line to the device, the piece data being necessary for the device to play the data body, and the device uses the header information of the content file and the piece data only in play operation to play the data body of the content

file.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The system for preventing unauthorized play of digital content according to claim 2, wherein the request to play the content file by the user is made under an authentication and/or charging condition of the user.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The system for preventing unauthorized play of digital content according to claim 10, wherein the digital content playing device has functions of:

determining an elapsed period from the point of time at which, aside from piece data, the content file is transmitted from the delivery management ~~means~~ unit; and when the elapsed period reaches a predetermined period, deleting the transmitted content file.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The digital content playing device used for the system for preventing unauthorized play of digital content according to claim 11, which has functions of:

determining an elapsed period from the point of time at which, aside from piece data, the content file is transmitted from the delivery management ~~means~~ unit; and

when the elapsed period reaches a predetermined period, deleting the transmitted content file.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The playing software used for the system for preventing unauthorized play of digital content according to claim 12, comprising additional descriptions of:

determining an elapsed period from the point of time at which, aside from piece data, the content file is transmitted from the delivery management ~~means~~ unit, and

when the elapsed period reaches a predetermined period, deleting the transmitted content file.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): A digital content unauthorized play prevention method, wherein provided that a content file having header information and a data body in a digital content playing device previously lacks a part of the header information ~~in order to prevent unauthorized play of the data body~~, and that the part of the header information is prepared as a piece data in management ~~means~~ unit for managing use of the content file in the device and communicable via a communication line with the device, the piece data being necessary for the device to play the data body, when a request to play the content file is inputted by a user to the device, the device transmits the request via the communication line to the management ~~means~~ unit, the management ~~means~~ unit checks authentication of the user related to the request to transmit the piece data of the content file related to the request via the communication line to the device, and the device uses the header information of the content file and the piece data in play operation to play the data body of the content file.

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Claim 20 (New): The system for preventing unauthorized play of digital content recited in claim 2, wherein the communication line connects via the Internet.